

## CORNELL UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

SECTION OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

WING HALL

ITHACA, N. Y. 14850

Dear Maxine,

June 3

I was delighted to receive your letter and I'm sorry to be so slow to write. You must be enjoying a very rich experience indeed, raising a family and working in the state of Israel. I have an Israeli post-doc now, from Jerusalem and Ef has two. We get lots of visitors from there. Harold Scheraga said he saw a fair amount of you. I hope that Dan found the stay profitable. I look forward to seeing you when you return. I'll probably give a seminar in N.I.H. in October.

Regrettably I've mislaid your letter (my desk is still a mess). You described what you were doing, but I forgot. Therefore I can't make any comments concerning your research. Another letter, maybe, will have some such comment (if I locate your letter).

Marianne was due to visit me for a week but changed her mind about coming to the USA this year. Betty Keller has lots of reservations about recent work from Marianne's lab. I wouldn't know because I don't follow protein synthesis. That's David Wilson's department. It's a big enough strain to keep up with nucleic acids when it's no longer my major field of interest.

Things seem to be moving along at a frenetic pace in the lab, and have been since early March. Before that I was in a long slump, roughly from Nov to March. I don't know which periods are more wearing, the up periods or the down periods. In my slump periods I sleep 9-10 hours, rest a lot, accomplish little and feel mildly depressed. That was the situation during your Cornell visit of several years ago. In my up periods I get 7 hours sleep or less, work in the lab from 7:40 am to 7 pm, return several evenings each week, work all day Sat, all of Sun am and about an hour Sun evening. On top of this I see lots of movies, plays, musical events etc and play lots of records. It's wearing.

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(In the last 3 weeks Adelaide and I saw "Last Picture Show", "City Lights", "Bananas", "Play it Again Sam", "Cabaret" and "Garden of the Fizzi-Continis". We saw "Bananas" two nights ago, "Cabaret" last night and tonight we have Joel Weir and his wife for dinner after which we take them to "Night at the Opera", a Marx Bros. oldie. The above list includes some truly remarkable films. Recent reading includes "The Best People" (high society in the U.S.A.), "The Battle of Waterloo", Turgenev's "Fathers and Sons", a book of short stories, by Shirley Jackson and others. We plan to see "Goldberg Variations" a fantastic N.Y. City ballet based on the Bach piece, Verdi Requiem & Sorkin all-Bethoven (3 nights at Saratoga Springs).

Alan has a grant to research the I.W.W., (Int. Workers of the World) a left wing organ. of about 1910-1920. He'll spend time in Boston, Wash., N.Y.C., Ann Arbor & Chicago. David works in a Rochester hospital for the summer.

Ithaca is lovely just now. We're excited about the variety of birds to be seen this year. Unhappily there have been severe & damaging floods in this general area with lots of property damage. Et & Frances are fine.

P.S. Alan has a good friend at Harvard an emeritus professor of art. He helped arrange an exhibition of his paintings & the artist, Robin Field gave Alan one of his paintings — a view in the Lake District of England. Where is the Lake District. How many "Lake poets" were there and who are they? Which one was clearly the most mediocre? Be glad you're not in Ithaca so that people continually bombard you with trivial questions!

Lots of luck! Safe trip back.

Sincerely  
Alan